

An online, Montgomery County resource providing information on youth alcohol issues. Community members can e-mail related questions and receive updated prevention information.

Study finds many parents oblivious to alcohol, drug use

The Washington Post
August 17, 2006

If someone you know would like **to sign up** please have them send an e-mail to SAFEnet with the subject line reading "sign me up".

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SAFEnet! A service brought to you by the Parents Who Host Lose the Most Campaign!

Parents Who Host Lose the Most is a public awareness campaign supported by:

MC DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR CONTROL, MC POLICE, DRAWING THE LINE ON UNDERAGE ALCOHOL USE, MC PUBLIC SCHOOLS, MC RECREATION DEPT, MC HIGHWAY SAFETY

For more information follow link below:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dloimpl.asp?url=/Content/DLC/Liquor/Community/home.asp>

A third of American teenagers have attended parties where parents were at home while alcohol or illegal drugs were used, according to an annual back-to-school survey on teens' attitudes that paints an overall portrait of a generation of parents clueless about their kids' vices. The study did not suggest that parents were aware of what was happening when teenagers were partying in their homes. To the contrary, only 12 percent of parents see drugs and alcohol as a problem for their children, while 27 percent of teenagers ranked it their biggest concern. Fifty-eight percent of parents cited social pressure as their child's biggest issue.

"These parents are like the three monkeys," said Joseph Califano, chairman and president of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. "They see no

beer, smell no pot and don't hear all hell breaking loose in the family room."

"These parents don't understand the world their children are living in," he said. "There is a lot of denial here."

The center, which studies risk factors for substance abuse, took a close look at parents and delved into the private party scene, where much of the underage drinking and drug abuse is thought to occur. In a number of areas, the opinions of the parents were strikingly at odds with the views of their children.

The study found that 80 percent of parents think that neither alcohol nor marijuana is usually available at parties that their teenagers attend. Fifty percent of teenagers said they had been at parties where alcohol and drugs were being used.

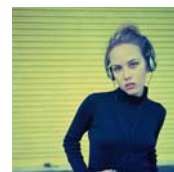
For the first time, the center's survey also found

that the substance-abuse gender gap has closed, with girls 12 to 17 at equal or higher risk compared with boys.

Family structure showed up as a strong indicator of substance-abuse risk. Teenagers who regularly ate dinner with their families and attended church services were at less risk, as were teenagers who slept more than eight hours a day.

Califano said that white, black and Hispanic teens experiment with drugs to the same degree and that "poor kids are more likely to get hooked and less likely to get serious treatment."

http://www.heralddnet.com/stories/06/08/18/100wir_a4oblivious001.cfm





Despite Focus on Illegal Drugs, Underage Drinking Is Greater Threat

-PIRE Institute

Underage drinking in the U.S. comes with a price tag of almost \$62 does on preventing underage drinking. "Alcohol-related traffic crashes, violence, teen pregnancies, STDs, burns, drownings, alcohol poisoning, property damage and other risks take a human and

economic toll that's much greater than illegal drugs," said Ted Miller, Ph.D., lead author of the study. "Yet we spend so much more on youth drug abuse." Almost 3,200 deaths and 2.6 million other harmful events result from underage drinking each year.

Read the full article at:
<http://www.pire.org/detail2.asp?core=38213&cms=1>
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"nearly half of 17-year-olds attend house parties when parents are present and teens are drinking or smoking marijuana."

New National Survey Warns Parents about Rampant Drug, Alcohol Use at Teen Parties, Even When Parents Are Present



Findings from The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University reveal that one third of teens and nearly half of 17-year-olds attend house parties when parents are present and teens are drinking or smoking marijuana. And teens who say parents are NOT present at parties they attend are 16 times likelier to say alcohol is available, 15 times likelier to say illegal and prescription drugs are available, and

29 times likelier to say marijuana is available compared to teens who say parents are always present at the parties they attend.

Parents and community groups should be mindful that parties are only one area where teen risk-taking can occur. However, an ongoing dialogue with teens about the risks associated with drug use and the physical harms caused by using drugs can help prevent them from accepting an

offer to use. Parents also need to monitor their teens' activities, which means knowing where they are, whom they are with, what they are doing, and when they will be home. It means asking questions, having teens check in regularly, and checking up on them as well - even if the party is in your own home. As research shows, the majority of teens say the main reason they won't use marijuana is fear of

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Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control

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(240) 777-1904

FAX:
(240) 777-1962

E-MAIL:
safenet@montgomerycountymd.gov

We're on the Web!

See us at:
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/
dlc](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dlc)

Continued ...

upsetting their parents.
Parents can do a few
simple things to help keep
their kids drug-free:

- Set rules and limits
- Outline your expectations
of no drug use
- Monitor your teen's
activities and ask
questions
- If the party is in your
home, check in with the
teens and know what they
are doing
- Follow through with

consequences if your teen
breaks the rules

-Get more information
about the signs,
symptoms, and effects of
marijuana and other drug
use, as well as advice for
parents and adult
influencers on keeping
kids drug-free at:
www.TheAntiDrug.com.

-Order the Media
Campaign's new
parenting resources:
"Navigating the Teen

Years: A Parent's
Handbook for Raising
Healthy Teens," and a
CD-ROM: "The Teen
Years: A Road Map for
Parents" at
www.TheAntiDrug.com.

Also, check out:
www.MediaCampaign.org



**"Everybody thinks their kid is beyond
taking drugs ... nobody's beyond it."**
— a mom in Troy, Missouri

How Well Do You Know Your Teenager? Take the online quiz!
Tips on how to talk to you teen are based on their risk assessments.

Visit:

http://www.theantidrug.com/ei/how_well.asp

**"Stopping parties does not stop drug use. Find out why your child would feel
the need to gain happiness from a pill first- Blame the parties, last."**
— Sam, a teenager

ANNOUNCEMENT!

We will be announcing alcohol prevention event information. If you know of a Montgomery County event or resource that is parent or teen friendly please e-mail us with this information a month in advance so we can post it in our next newsletter.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or with your feedback!

safenet@montgomerycountymd.gov

Thanks!

SAVE the Date!

Monday, October 23 at 6:30 p.m. at AFI Theatre in Silver Spring

Montgomery County's Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council and Montgomery County Safe and Drug Free Schools invite you to a FREE showing of "This Place" depicting today's youth and alcohol issues and to join Marc Fisher, Washington Post Metro Columnist (Are You a Toxic Parent?), and others LIVE discussion focusing on parenting in the now, underage alcohol use and key efforts in Montgomery County to combat underage alcohol use. Mark your calendar and tell a friend.